(d) the details of the objections ascribed by the Government in clearing this project; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remove these objections?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) The Detailed Project Report of Agra Barrage Project in Uttar Pradesh was received in Central Water Commission in April, 1996.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The project Report has been examined in Central Water Commission and appraisal of some aspects have been completed. The State Government is required to sort out the remaining techno-economic issues.

[English]

Tourist Centres in Losses

1814. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state ;

(a) the total number of tourist centres at present in the country, State-wise;

(b) whether the number of tourist centres are running in losses;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the year-wise details of the losses incurred by each of these centres during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) to (d) There are several places in the country which are visited by tourists. These centres, however, cannot be classified as loss making or otherwise.

Faults in Policy Decision

1815. SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether keeping in view the poor track record of the major and medium sectors of irrigation, the Union Government propose to set up an enquiry commission to ascertain faults in policy decision, the reasons for delay and corruption in various stages of the projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by the Union Government to contain corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SIS RAM OLA) : (a) and (b) The Major and Medium irrigation projects are implemented by the State Governments from State funds and Plan allocations and they are responsible for proper and timely implementation of the projects. However, wherever specific instances of irregularities are reported the concerned State Governments are expected to take suitable action in the matter.

[Translation]

Colleges for Deaf and Dumb

1816. SHRI LINGARAJ VALYAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Government and private colleges separately for deaf and dumb persons in Maharashtra;

(b) whether all these colleges are recognised by the Government; and

(c) if so, the scheme formulated by the Government to run such private institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) The Government is not aware of any colleges exclusively for deaf and dumb persons affiliated to any of the Universities in Maharashtra.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

[English]

Restoration of LPG & Telephone Quota to MP

1817. SHRI GORDHANBHAI JAVIA
SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT :
SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether after withdrawing the gas coupen and telephone connection allotment facilities from the Members of Lok Sabha, any special arrangements have been made for the needy persons for allotment of gas and telephone connections and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) while the facility of gas and telephone connection is still available to the Rajya Sabha Members then the reasons for which the Members of Lok Sabha have been deprived of this previlege; and

(c) whether the Government would consult the Hon. Speaker and get this facility restored to the Members of Lok Sabha and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The discretionary quota for allotment of telephone connections of all MPs including Rajya Sabha MPs has not been withdrawn at any point of time. However, the discretionary quota for release of LPG connections for Member of Lok Sabha has been discontinued. The decision to discontinue the discretionary quota for release of LPG connections to

Members of Lok Sabha was announced by the Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha in the house on 26th February, 1997. Consequent to this decision, LPG priority coupons have not been issued to Members of Lok Sabha from 1st April, 1997.

Under the revised Tatkal Scheme, any person can avail the LPG connection from any LPG distributor immediately on deposit of one time non-refundable amount of Rs. 4000/- alongwith the usual security.

(c) Does not arise, in view of (a) and (b) above.

[Translation]

Privatisation of Inland Waterways

1818. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI SHYAM LAL BANSHIWAL :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is under consideration of the Government to attract the private companies to invest in the Inland Waterways sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the date by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) The detailed policy guidelines for IWT sector including encouragement of privat sector participation in Inland Waterways Transport sector are under finalisation. As such, presently, no firm indication about time is possible to be indicated.

Delhi-Jaipur N.H.

1819. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the construction work of four lane on Jaipur-Delhi N.H. has been completed;

(b) if not, the names of the sections where it is lying incomplete and reasons for delay; and

(c) the time by which the above work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (c) Construction of 4 laning of National Highway No. 8 (Delhi-Jaipur Section) is as under :-

(i)	Delhi to Gurgaon (km 36.63)	100%
(ii)	Kotputii (km. 162.5) to Achrol (km. 231.00)	98.5%
(iii)	Achrol (km. 231.00) to Jaipur (km. 263.00)	100%

The work of 4 laning from Gurgaon (km. 36.63) to Kotputli (km. 162.5) is in progress under Asian Development Bank Loan Assistance Programme and is targetted for completion by March, 2001.

[English]

Reservation in Minority Colleges

1820. SHRI P.C. THOMAS : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court verdict to give 50 per cent seats in colleges run by minority colleges to students of that community is being implemented;

(b) whether this right has been approved by the Government;

(c) if so, whether this verdict is being followed in colleges in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details of students applied, minorities amongst them in various courses in colleges of Delhi University and the number of students from minority communities selected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d) The Judgement of the Supreme Court rendered in St. Stephenes' College case, permits an institution covered under Article 30(1) of the Constitution to admit upto fifty per cent students of the relevant minority. As the right flows from a Constitutional provision as interpreted by the Court the question of Government approving such an arrangement does not arise - the law declared by the Supreme Court is the law of the land in terms of Article-141 of the Constitution. As this facility is available only to institution enjoying protection of Article-30, the question of its application to Colleges, generally, does not arise.

[Translation]

Reservation to Backward Classes

1821. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any efforts to provide 27 percent reservation to the backward classes in the educational institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (c) The question of providing 27 percent